Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Royal Geographical Society.

1854.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

Read at the Anniversary Meeting, 22nd May.

The Council took occasion at the last Anniversary Meeting to notice the growing interest manifested by the public in the proceedings of this Society; they have now the pleasure to report, in further evidence of such feeling, a considerable increase in the means placed at their disposal for working out the great national objects of the Institution.

Members,—Ordinary, Honorary, and Corresponding.—The unprecedented accession of new members reported at the last anniversary has been exceeded in the period now under review, during which 112 ordinary members have been added to the lists of the Society. Two *Corresponding* members have been also, upon the recommendation of the Council, duly elected; M. J. M. Ziegler, of Winterthur, referred to in the last Council Report, and Lieut. Joseph René Bellot, of the Imperial French Navy, the gallant and devoted Arctic voyager, our regret for whose early loss we have endeavoured to express by raising a fund for the erection at Greenwich of a monument to his memory, and for the relief of his bereaved family. We have also to regret the decease of Prince Emanuel Galitzin, a corresponding member of the Society, and of 21 ordinary members, and to record the resignation of one ordinary member during the year.

The Society now consists of 770 ordinary, and 58 honorary and corresponding members.

Finances.—The audited accounts of the past year, accompanying this Report, show that whilst the expenditure of the Society has been kept strictly within the estimates submitted to the last General Meeting, the receipts from annual subscriptions, compositions, entrance-fees, and arrears, have greatly exceeded the sums calculated upon. Further investigation will show more fully the improvement which has taken place in the financial position of the Society; for instance, the ordinary receipts, which in the year 1848 were only 696*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, and in 1849 778*l.* 3*s.*, increased in 1850 to 1036*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, in 1851 to 1056*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, in 1852 to 1220*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and now amount to 1693*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

This improvement, however encouraging, would hardly warrant the Council in proposing measures, for the extension of the Society's sphere of usefulness, involving considerable immediate expenditure and a probable appeal to its members for additional funds, had not the interest now generally taken in its proceedings, lent such powerful support to the applications for Government assistance, of the President and his immediate predecessors in office, especially of Sir Roderick Murchison, offering in return the advantage of a public Map-room, that Her Majesty's Ministers have felt themselves justified in tendering a yearly grant of 500*l.*, in order that an apartment be provided, in which the Society's valuable collection of Maps and Charts may be rendered available for general reference. This proposition has been gratefully accepted, and the Council is now engaged upon the preliminaries, requisite for carrying into effect with the least possible delay, arrangements in accordance with the Treasury minute.

Publications.—The 23rd volume of the Society's Journal, edited by our able and indefatigable Secretary, Dr. Norton Shaw, has been brought out during the present session. It will be difficult to speak too highly of a publication which contains so many valuable papers, and no less than eleven illustrative maps. An Index to the Journal, volumes xi. to xx., has also been published, and is delivered free to the members of the Society.

The Libraries of the Museum of Practical Geology, the Royal Agricultural Society, the Canadian Institute of Toronto, the Boston Society of Natural History, and the Hydrographic Office of Copenhagen, have been added to the list of Institutions to which the Journals of the Society are presented.

Acting Secretary and Editor.—It has afforded much satisfaction to the Council to have been enabled, by the late progressive improvement of the Society's funds, to replace upon its original footing the salary attached to the important executive offices held by Dr. Norton Shaw, to whose intelligence and assiduity such improvement is, in a great measure, attributable.

Private Donation.—The Council have to report, with suitable acknowledgments, a donation of 50*l.* from our associate Sir Walter Trevelyan, who has also, on many occasions, been a most liberal contributor to the Library of the Society.

Library.—The additions to the Library of the Society during the past year consist of 400 volumes of Books and Pamphlets, 300 sheets of Maps and Charts, and 10 Atlases. Among these valuable donations are comprised a present from Lord Stanley of 60 volumes, chiefly relating to Algeria; a collection of Documents concerning the Arctic Expeditions, presented by Mr. Barrow; French Charts, 17 in number, published and presented by the Dépôt de la Marine; Sanson's Atlas, and a Map of the Mogul Empire, by the Treasury; a folio volume, illustrative of "Scenes in Ethiopia," presented by the Artist, Mr. J. M. Bernatz; Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, vol. v., 4to., together with several Maps and other Works, presented by the Smithsonian Institution; the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, with a volume containing Sketches to accompany the same; Schoolcraft's History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States, vol. iii., 4to.; Kiepert's Maps of European and Asiatic Turkey; Alex. Keith Johnston's New Edition of the Physical Atlas; eighteen Sheets (being the number hitherto published) of the Great Map of the Kingdom of Sardinia, presented, through our Corresponding Member, Sig. Cristoforo Negri, by the Foreign Office of Sardinia; Transactions of the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna; of the Lombardo-Veneto Institute of Milan; of the Academies of Paris, St. Petersburg, Madrid, Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania, as also of other Foreign Societies; and the Charts published by the Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty.

Royal Donation.—The Gold Medals, forming the annual donation of Her Most Gracious Majesty, have been awarded as follows:—

The Founder's Medal to Rear-Admiral William Henry Smyth, K.S.F., &c., for his numerous valuable Maritime Surveys in the Mediterranean, pursued at considerable pecuniary cost to himself, and commenced at a time when our acquaintance with the physical geography of that sea and the surrounding countries was most imperfect—Surveys which produced 105 Charts and Maps, still used by the Admiralty, and established upwards of 1200 maritime positions on the coasts of France, Spain, Italy, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Croatia, Dalmatia, the Ionian Isles, Greece, and the shores of Africa from Egypt to Morocco; also for his writings upon the Climatology and Natural History of large tracts (including his memoirs on Sicily and Sardinia), and especially for his recent able work, the "Mediterranean," in which his own observations are embodied in a rich compendium of the actual geography of those regions, as compared with their physical features recorded in the classical and mediæval ages.

The Patron's Medal to Captain Robert J. Le M. M'Clure, R.N., of H.M. Ship Investigator, for his remarkable exertions in getting to Behring Strait early enough in 1850 (the same year he left England) to enable him, against great difficulties, to navigate his ship through the ice of the Polar Seas, for his survey of Baring Island, and above all, for his brilliant discovery of the North-West Passage.

The Council cannot conclude this Report without congratulating the Society upon the improved state of its finances, and upon the public recognition of its usefulness now accorded by Her Majesty's Government:—to the enlarged sphere thus opened for its continued labours, the Council heartily invite the co-operation of all those who, with them, feel a common interest in the promotion and diffusion of Geographical knowledge.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1853.

Receipts.

				£.	s.	d.
Subscriptions of 286 Fellows				572	0	0
Compositions of 18 Fellows, at £ 25	£ 450					
Composition of 1 Fellow, at . 22	22					
				472	0	0
Entrance of 100 Fellows, at £ 3				300	0	0
Sale of 224*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*				224	1	10
Arrears of Subscriptions paid up				86	0	0
Journals and Indices sold				84	16	3
Dividends on 2000*l.* of 3¼ per Cent. . . (Income Tax deducted.)	£63	2	2			
Dividends on 224*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* of 3 per Cent. half year (Income Tax deducted.)	3	5	3			
				66	7	5
Royal Premium				52	10	0
Sir W. C. Trevelyan's Donation				50	0	0
Sundries overpaid				9	7	0
Balance at Banker's January 1st	£ 522	6	3			
„ in the Secretary's hands	22	15	2			
				545	1	5
				£ 2462	3	11

Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Journal—Printing Vol. XXII.	210	12	0			
„ „ Index	64	1	0			
„ Compiling „	25	0	0			
„ Illustrations	157	16	9			
				457	9	9
Salaries—Secretary and Editor	250	0	0			
„ Clerk	60	0	0			
„ Junior Clerk	10	0	0			
				320	0	0
Wages—Messenger and Housemaid	45	0	0			
„ Collector's Poundage	12	14	0			
				57	14	0
Amount paid to Expeditions	340	3	0			
Repairing Instruments for ditto	5	4	0			
				345	7	0
House Rent and Fixtures	257	14	9			
„ Furniture and Repairs	8	7	6			
				266	2	3
Office Expenses:—						
Postages, Stamps, Freight, Duty, &c.	41	9	7			
Stationery	18	13	0			
Firing and Lights	17	18	0			
Sundry Petty Charges	15	17	11			
Evening Meetings	9	12	0			
Insurance and Advertisements	15	13	0			
				119	3	6
Books and Binding, Diagrams, &c.	.			53	15	6
Royal Premium (Medals)	.			46	14	0
Sundries overpaid and returned	.			9	0	0
Balance at Banker's, Dec. 31st	772	12	3			
„ in the Secretary's hands	14	5	8			
				786	17	11
				£ 2462	3	11

ROBERT BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.

E. OSBORNE SMITH, W. FOSTER WHITE, } *Auditors.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1854.

Receipts.	£.	s.	d.	*Expenditure.*	£.	s.	d.
Balance at Banker's and Petty Cash	786	17	11	Journal and Illustrations	600	0	0
Annual Subscriptions, 300 Members	600	0	0	Rent, Taxes, and Wages	550	0	0
Life Compositions, 10 ditto	250	0	0	Salaries	550	0	0
Entrance Fees, 75 ditto	225	0	0	Office Expenses	100	0	0
Arrears of Subscriptions	50	0	0	Fire Assurance and Advertisements	50	0	0
Journals and Indices	100	0	0	Expenditure for Royal Premiums	52	10	0
Dividends on 2000*l.* Stock	60	0	0	Library and Office Fittings	500	0	0
Royal Premium Donation	52	10	0	Balance available for Removal Expenses	221	17	11
Government Grant	500	0	0				
	£2,624	7	11		£2,624	7	11

NORTON SHAW.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS,

FROM THE 14TH OF JULY, 1830, TO THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1853.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Entrance Fees	3,801	0	0
Life Compositions	8,089	0	0
Annual Subscriptions	12,157	19	0
In aid of Expeditions	2,368	5	0
Royal Premiums	1,207	10	0
Sales of Geographical Publications	2,257	8	1
Dividends and other Receipts	3,844	0	3
Sales of Stock	2,963	5	2
	£36,688	7	6

Payments.

	£.	s.	d.
Rent, Fixtures, and Fittings	5,645	8	3
Office Expenses	3,427	3	10
Salaries—Secretary, Editor, and Clerks	6,585	5	0
Cost of Geographical Publications	8,807	14	8
Purchase of Books, Maps, and Instruments	1,232	11	10
Grants in aid of Expeditions	4,186	8	0
Medals and other Premiums	1,301	10	0
Life Compositions invested	4,626	0	0
Subscriptions returned	89	8	0
	£35,901	9	7
Cash balance in hand	786	17	11
	£36,688	7	6

E. OSBORNE SMITH, *Auditor.*

NORTON SHAW, *Secretary.*